

Typhoon Soudelor Situation Report
5 August 2015 1254 hrs (Pacific Time)

Declaration/Activation/Case Status:

1 rotating EPA staff deployed to FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center, ESF 10 Desk for 12 hour shift, 0900 to 2100 hrs;

No mission assignments issued to date; Government CNMI submitted a disaster declaration request 8/4; FEMA review of the request continues;

Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund open for Typhoon related gasoline release from the Mobil Micronesia tank farm;

2 OSCs en route to Saipan for OPA response; one OSC arrives 8/5, one to arrive by 8/6 (pacific time).

The Coast Guard opened a CPN to address possible hazardous material in shipping containers.

High priority items for EPA and ESF10 include downed transformers and possible PCB releases, overall debris management, including household hazardous waste, other oil spills from the Commonwealth Utility Corporation facilities where EPA has ongoing OPA removal actions, distribution of potable water to citizens and sanitation issues related to lack of operating wastewater infrastructure.

Overview:

On 2 August 2015 (Pacific time) Typhoon Soudelor made landfall at CNMI, directly over Saipan and very near Tinian, as a Category 2 typhoon. Soudelor brought hurricane force winds (near 105mph), heavy rains and coastal inundation. Saipan port open for shipping traffic, subject to CG Safety Zone requirement and as authorized by Captain of the Port. The Harbor has been closed by USCG which is permitting only authorized vessels to move. The airport is open during daylight hours (0600-1800). Although communications with on-island personnel is very intermittent, preliminary indications are of widespread infrastructure damage on both Saipan and Tinian.

The power grid on Saipan is down; additionally, approximately 45% of the distribution system is estimated to be damaged.

An above-ground storage tank containing gasoline at the Mobil Micronesia tank farm was damaged, opening a gash approximately 6 inches above the tank bottom, releasing tank contents into secondary containment. See more detailed discussion below.

A 1000 gallon diesel fuel tank on Saipan's Delta wharf was struck by a derelict vessel and damaged, leaking an estimated 500 gallons of diesel fuel into Tanapag Harbor. Two other derelict vessels are also reported to have been beached on Saipan. No further description, location or report of actual or potential spill/release available at this time.

Due to the difference in time zones, the rest of this report includes updates from CNMI current as of the morning of 5 Aug (Pacific) time, or nighttime of 6 Aug on CNMI. Also, it is segregated into two parts: updates relating to the Mobil Micronesia Tank Farm Release, activities for which are funded through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; and those related to other activities in response to the typhoon, which presumably will be funded as a FEMA mission assignment. Source information is primarily derived from R9 OSC conversations with CUC staff and other Gov CNMI contacts as well as ESF10 and FEMA RRCC desk reports. Communication links are limited in CNMI as is the flow and consistency of information at

this time. The following is the best information available at this time. It may change as information channels and assessment quality become better established.

Mobil Micronesia Tank Farm Release and Delta Wharf Diesel Spill:

Tank 10 (230,000 gallon capacity) was impacted by a transportation container causing a 4-6 inch tear in the tank wall and released an estimated 88,000 gallons of gasoline into secondary containment.

The Coast Guard Sector Guam opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to address the Mobil Micronesia gasoline release and the diesel fuel release from the fuel tank on Delta Wharf. Although the gasoline release from the tank farm is in the inland zone and thus EPA's responsibility, CG Sector Guam is presently acting as first federal official on scene and OSC for EPA. Region 9 has deployed two OSCs, Chris Weden and Marty Powell, to Saipan. OSC Weden will arrive on Saipan on 8/6 Saipan time and OSC Powell is expected to arrive on 9/7 Saipan time. OSC Weden will begin transitioning the response from USCG to EPA upon his arrival.

USCG reports that the leak in the tank has been temporarily secured with a patch and the discharge from the tank and the valve on the bottom have both been secured. There is still gasoline in the secondary containment area and the fire department is applying foam on an hourly basis to mitigate vapors. The plan for today is to remove remaining fuel from the containment area and work to clean the containment area. Concerns with regard to safety perimeter and gasoline vapors still remain. Mobil is the sole supplier of Jet A to the airport and is hoping to resume operations to supply Jet A to the airport, however the loading rack is approximately 50 feet from the containment area. USCG has asked Mobil for operations and safety plans to cover the next phase of the operations and conditions for ensuring safety to resume transfer operations. The airport's current ability for refueling aircraft is not currently known.

Even after transfer of responsibility for this action to EPA, CG intends to support EPA with its 5 PST and 2 IMAT assets pending re-assignment upon receipt of an anticipated FEMA mission assignment.

Other Typhoon-Related Activities:

US Coast Guard Sector Guam:

USCG Sector has 10 people in Saipan now, with an additional five from the Pacific Strike Team who were scheduled to have arrived on Guam today. Additionally, 2 IMAT (SitL and Cost Doc) and a D14 press officer are scheduled to arrive tomorrow. The primary focus of these latter arrivals is supporting EOC and port operations and security.

FEMA:

FEMA R9 has activated the regional response coordination center (RRCC) in Oakland. Effective today it is transitioning to 12 hour operations, 0900-2100. FEMA has an incident management assist team on Saipan that is currently assessing damage and immediate needs. We anticipate that there will be a disaster declaration but none has been issued to date. We expect that individual assistance and public assistance mission assignments will be issued in the near future but we have not heard about any pending direct federal assistance mission assignments yet. FEMA has issued an MA to ESF10 to staff the RRCC.

ESF3 beginning emergency power assessments. Coordinating with CUC regarding restoration of “water pumping system”, awaiting assessment list from CUC. ESF12 and ESF3 assisting with repairs and temporary power for water system.

ESF12 reported damaged power plant generators likely 3-4 weeks to return to operability. Power plant being dried out by hand using hair dryers. This is expected to be successful, since the approach was used in similar earlier incidents. About 45% of power distribution down. Inadequate reserves of poles, no reserve transformers. IMAT has set up power task force to address power pole and transformer needs.

Ten 125kW generators being shipped for drinking water mission. IMAT is working to get list of critical wells from CUC. Generators will be installed at these wells. ACE is concerned for the match between motors and generators.

ACE asking that WWTPs get added to list for emergency power assessments. One assessment was completed yesterday. Five more have been completed so far today. Five more expected to be completed today. ACE would like to have critical wells assessed, when specified.

Mass care:

Windshield damage assessments were done in parts of Saipan that support CNMI Governor’s request for an expedited disaster declaration. Damage indicates many will be in shelters for an extended period of time.

Red Cross now has food for seven days. Anticipates getting more food and comfort supplies. 72,000 liters of bottled DW included in these supplies.

EPA Actions:

EPA has deployed 2 OSCs to the Mobil spill and have been occupying the ESF10 desk on a 24 hour operation cycle which, effective today, is transitioning to twelve hour operations, 0900-2100. We anticipate that in addition to the gasoline spill at Mobil Micronesia, we will need OSCs to address a multitude of infrastructure damage, such as spills from transformers, other inland pollution incidents, and damage to drinking water and wastewater facilities. The ESF10 desk has begun drafting MAs to share with FEMA in anticipation of specific assistance requests from CNMI regarding work under ESF10 for damaged electrical transformers and household hazardous waste and in support of other ESFs regarding water and wastewater, debris removal etc.

In addition, EPA continues to coordinate with the Commonwealth Utility Corporation re: power plant, pipeline, water & wastewater.

Janice Witul, SPCC compliance officer is on Guam and is scheduled to be on island (Guam and Saipan) for the next two weeks, conducting SPCC inspections. If Janice can get access to Saipan, she would be in a position to conduct a preliminary needs assessment. She is also a trained safety officer.

Media Interest:

Locally high, nationally low at present. Wildfires are getting more attention in R9.